



Attorney General Jon Bruning

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Three Sentenced in Death of 4-year-old Landon Payne**

LINCOLN -- Attorney General Jon Bruning today announced the sentences of Dustin Scoville, Sharon Turnell and Charles Turnell, of Minden, in relation to the 2009 death of 4-year-old Landon Payne.

“Just days before his fifth birthday, little Landon died after suffering cruel acts of abuse by adults who were supposed to protect and care for him,” said Bruning. “Today’s sentences help to ensure Mr. Scoville and the Turnells are held accountable for these heartbreaking crimes.”

Scoville received a sentence of 49 to 50 years in prison for one count of attempted child abuse resulting in death, a Class II felony. Sharon Turnell was also sentenced 49 to 50 years for one count of attempted child abuse resulting in death. Charles Turnell was sentenced 19 to 20 years in jail for one count of child abuse resulting in serious bodily injury, a Class III felony.

In August, Scoville and the Turnells pleaded no contest to the charges.

On December 21, 2009, Landon Payne arrived unconscious at Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney. He died the next day.

Court records showed Landon had numerous bruises on his head, back and legs, injury to his abdomen and two subdural hematomas on the surface of his brain. Autopsy reports said the child was dehydrated, malnourished and emaciated. The cause of death was later determined to be blunt force trauma to the head.

Landon had been staying at the Turnell’s home since August 2009.

Assistant Attorney General Michael Guinan handled the case.

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